

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated July 15, 2009. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-20 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-20 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§112 Rejections

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 10 render claims 1-20 compliant with §112. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under §112 be withdrawn.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bienek et al. (WO 02/078388 A2) in view of North (US 6,801,631).

Claims 5-9 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bienek and North in view of Masako et al. (JP-8-191225-A).

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1 and 10) are patentable over Bienek, North, and Masako (collectively "the cited references").

Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 is directed toward an audio signal processing method. The claim recites that an audio signal is supplied to a plurality of digital filters, that the outputs of the filters are supplied to a plurality of speakers, and that at least one amplitude characteristic of the plurality of digital filters is adjusted "such that the frequency response to the audio signal at a second point in [a] sound field is lower than the frequency response to the audio signal at [a] first point in the sound field." The claim further recites "adjusting a variable high pass filter to filter the audio signal such that the frequency response to the audio signal at the second point in the sound field is suppressed relative to the frequency response to the audio signal at the first point in the sound field." (Emphasis supplied.) Supporting disclosure for the emphasized recitation can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0086]. Claim 10 includes a similar recitation.

None of the cited references discloses the emphasized recitation. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-9 and 11-20 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if

the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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